

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 and 25 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1, 7, and 16 have been amended to recite “a base layer comprising.” Support for this amendment can be found in the paragraph bridging pages 3-4 of Applicants’ specification.

Claims 1-2, 5-8, 13-17, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tomohito (English Machine Translation of JP 2000-267086), as evidenced by Nakamura et al. (Derwent Abstract of JP 2002-234111).

Claims 3-4, 9-10, and 18-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tomohito, as evidenced by Nakamura et al. (“Nakamura”).

Claims 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tomohito as applied to claims 1-10, 13-19, and 25, as evidenced by Nakamura et al. (“Nakamura”), further in view of Shi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,693,956 (“Shi”) as evidenced by Misono et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,070,749 (“Misono”).

The layer structure of Tomohito is as follows:

Substrate (base layer)/epoxy resin layer/mixed resin layer (containing the diffuser)/reflecting layer

On the other hand, the layer structure of the present invention, for example in claim 1, is as follows:

Hard coat layer/epoxy resin layer containing the diffuser (base layer)/reflecting layer

From the above comparison, it is evident that the layer structure of Tomohito differs from the present invention because in the present invention the diffuser is contained in the epoxy resin

layer (base layer), whereas in Tomohito, the diffuser is contained in the mixed resin layer, which is not the base layer.

The advantage of the base layer containing the diffuser is as follows. When the epoxy resin layer contains the diffuser, and where the resin sheet is used as a liquid crystal cell substrate, the light diffusing properties can impart to the site near a liquid crystal layer, thereby improving visibility. On the contrary, in Tomohito, light diffusing properties are imparted to the site away from the liquid crystal layer. As a result, the invention in Tomohito can not obtain the good visibility as in the present invention.

Accordingly, the present invention is not anticipated or obvious over Tomohito alone or Tomohito further in view of Shi. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the § 102 and § 103 rejections.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Appln. No.: 10/090,166
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

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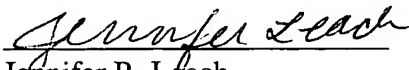
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